WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. An electronic messaging system, comprising an access restriction filter configured to interrogate an electronic message for an access restriction notice in response to a user command to transmit the electronic message, and to respond to a detected access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect an ownership notice in the electronic message.
 - 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect a copyright notice in the electronic message.
 - 4. The system of claim 3, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect a copyright notice by comparing one or more characters in the electronic message to one or more stored copyright notice representations.
 - 5. The system of claim 3, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect a copyright notice by interrogating a header component of the electronic message.
 - 6. The system of claim 1, further comprising a character recognizer configured to translate characters in an image component of the electronic message into computer-readable character representations.
 - 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect an access restriction notice by comparing one or more translated computer-readable character representations produced by the character recognizer to one or more stored access restriction representations.
 - 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to block transmission of the electronic message in response to a detected access restriction notice.
 - 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to enable a user to override a blocked electronic message transmission.
 - 10. The system of claim 8, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to enable a system administrator to override a blocked electronic message transmission.

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- 11. The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to trigger display of a report to a user in response to a detected access restriction notice.
- The system of claim 11, wherein the access restriction filter is configured 12. to trigger display to a user a message reporting that the electronic message cannot be transmitted because of adetected access restriction.
- The system of claim 11, wherein the access restriction filter is configured 13. to trigger display to a user a message reporting that a fee must be paid to enable transmission of the electronic message.
 - 14. An electronic messaging method, comprising

interrogating an electronic message for an access restriction notice in response to a user command to transmit the electronic message, and

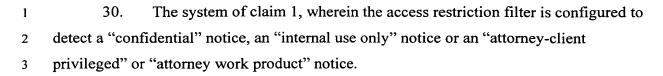
responding to a detected access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy.

- 15. The method of claim 14, wherein interrogating the electronic message comprises detecting an ownership notice in the electronic message.
- 16. The method of claim 15, wherein detecting an ownership notice in the electronic message comprises detecting a copyright notice in the electronic message.
- 17. The method of claim 16, wherein a copyright notice is detected by comparing one or more characters in the electronic message to one or more stored copyright notice representations.
- 18. The method of claim 16, wherein a copyright notice is detected by 1 interrogating a header component of the electronic message. 2
- The method of claim 14, further comprising translating characters in a still 19. image component of the electronic message into computer-readable character 2 representations. 3
 - 20. The method of claim 19, wherein an access restriction notice is detected by comparing one or more translated computer-readable character representations to one or more stored access restriction representations.

- 1 21. The method of claim 14, further comprising translating characters in a 2 video image component of the electronic message into computer-readable character 3 representations.
- The method of claim 21, wherein an access restriction notice is detected by comparing one or more translated computer-readable character representations to one or more stored access restriction representations.
 - 23. The method of claim 14, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises blocking transmission of the electronic message in response to a detected access restriction notice.
 - 24. The method of claim 23, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises enabling a user to override a blocked electronic message transmission.
 - 25. The method of claim 23, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises enabling a system administrator to override a blocked electronic message transmission.
 - 26. The method of claim 14, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises displaying a report to a user in response to a detected access restriction notice.
 - 27. The method of claim 26, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises displaying to a user a message reporting that the electronic message cannot be transmitted because of a detected access restriction.
 - 28. The method of claim 26, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises displaying to a user a message reporting that a fee must be paid to enable transmission of the electronic message.
 - 29. A computer-readable medium comprising:
 - computer readable code, said code providing instructions for interrogating an electronic message for an access restriction notice in response to a user command to transmit the electronic message and for responding to a detected access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy.

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- 1 31. The method of claim 14, wherein interrogating the electronic message 2 comprises detecting a "confidential" notice, an "internal use only" notice or an "attorney-3 client privileged" or "attorney work product" notice in the electronic message.
 - 32. The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect a "confidential," "internal use only," "attorney-client privileged" or "attorney work product" notice in the electronic message.